



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Firewise and Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants awarded *Funds help communities and local fire departments reduce wildfire risks*

FRANKFORT, KY (Aug. 24, 2009) – The Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) recently awarded \$490,088 in grant funds to communities and fire departments through the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program and the Firewise Community grant program. Funding for the programs are provided by the USDA-Forest Service and administered by KDF. The VFA grant program is designed to increase the capabilities of volunteer fire departments, and the Firewise grant program is designed to decrease the wildland fire risk to communities in fire-prone areas where rural landscapes meet urban development—known as the wildland-urban interface.

VFA grants totaling \$246,162 were awarded to 74 volunteer fire departments from across the state. VFA grants are typically used to purchase training materials, pumps, hoses, tanks, small fire suppression equipment and personal protective equipment such as Nomex, fire shelters and gloves. The objectives of the VFA grant program include the following:

- organize, train, and equip fire departments in unprotected rural areas and rural communities.
- assist qualifying fire departments in saving lives and protecting property in unprotected or inadequately protected rural communities.
- prevent or reduce loss of life, protect financial investments, and enhance environmental quality to revitalize rural America.
- increase the opportunity for rural fire departments to acquire training and current information on fire prevention techniques.

VFA grant recipients include the following volunteer fire departments (VFDs):

Name	Name	Name
Anderson County VFD	Grand Lakes VFD	Muddletfork VFD
Artemus VFD	Hanson VFD	Neon VFD
Bagdad Fire Protection District	Harlan VFD	Niagara VFD
Barbourville VFD	Harrison County VFD	Nicholas County VFD

Name	Name	Name
Bethel VFD	Hayes Crossing/Haldeman VFD	Nicholas VFD
Big Sandy VFD	Highland VFD	Oldtown VFD
Breeding Area VFD	Hurricane Creek VFD	Patterson Creek VFD
Bremen VFD	Jenkins VFD	Princeton VFD
Brooksville VFD	Kenton Community VFD	Richardsville VFD
Burkesville VFD	Kentucky 86 VFD	Rochester VFD
Calloway VFD	Kuttawa VFD	Rosine VFD
Campbellsburg VFD	Kentucky River VFD	Ruddles Mill-Shawhan VFD
Cedar Springs VFD Station 2	La Center Rural VFD	Sandy Hook VFD
Chalybeate VFD	LaRue County VFD	Science Hill VFD
City of Hazard VFD	Laurel County VFD	Shelby Valley VFD
Clear Springs VFD	Leitchfield VFD	South Allen VFD
Corinth VFD	Louisa VFD	Southeast Casey VFD
Corydon Civil Defense VFD	Loyall VFD	St. Charles VFD
Cromwell VFD	Maloneton VFD	Stamping Ground VFD
Crossroads VFD	Marrowbone VFD	Thealka VFD
Eagle Sawyer VFD	McHenry VFD	W R Castle VFD
East Bernstadt VFD	Meade County VFD	White Plains VFD
Eastwood VFD	Milburn VFD	Williamstown VFD
Flemingsburg VFD	Moreland VFD	Wolfe County VFD
Glencoe VFD	Mortons Gap VFD	

Firewise grantees received a total of \$243,926 in funding. The 15 recipients were selected based on project submittals geared toward safe planning and design, effective emergency response and individual responsibility for safer home design. Specifically, the Firewise program includes the following objectives:

- provide cost-share funds for fire mitigation and Firewise activities.
- foster closer relationships with fire departments and communities.
- educate the public about the benefits of fire mitigation.
- reduce the risks of wildfire in wildland/urban interface areas.
- require completion of Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Firewise grant recipients include the following VFDs and organizations:

Name	Name	Name
Brush Creek VFD	Hacker VFD	Oak Grove VFD
City of Harlan	Hillsboro VFD	Poplar Springs VFD
Cumberland VFD	Lockards Creek VFD	Route 504 VFD
Dunnville VFD	Manchester VFD	S.E. Casey Co. VFD
Green Co. Firewise Board	N.E. Rowan Co. Firewise Board	Summersville VFD

For more information about the Firewise or Volunteer Fire Assistance grant funding and program objectives, contact KDF at 1-800-866-0555 or visit <http://www.forestry.ky.gov/>.